

Message Text

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21

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 628

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A BERLIN 5485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT ABRASIMOV'S ASSOCIATES RETURN

1. THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN HAS ANNOUNCED KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES THAT BRING TWO EXPERIENCED MEMBERS OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV'S FORMER STAFF BACK TO BERLIN. VSEVOLOD IVANOVICH SOVVA HAS REPLACED GORALD NIKOLAYEVICH GORINOVICH AS ENVOY AND COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY, THE NUMBER TWO SOVIET POSITION IN EAST BERLIN, AND BRONISLAV PAVLOVICH KHOTULEV HAS RETURNED TO HIS OLD ROLE AS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY RESPONSIBLE FOR WEST BERLIN MATTERS, REPLACING VLADMIR MITROFANOVICH RODIN. IN ADDITION, AND LESS IMPORTANTLY, THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAS ANNOUNCED THE DEPARTURE OF LEONID ALEXEYEVICH TCHIKIN, FORMERLY COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY FOR CULTURE (NUMBER TEN OF TWELVE COUNSELORS OF EMBASSY ON THE
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SOVIET PROTOCOL LIST), AND THE ARRIVAL OF ARMEN

DAVIDOVICH DAVIDYAN AS ONE OF SEVENTEEN FIRST SECRETARIES
IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

2. SOVVA AND KHOTULEV'S RETURN TO EAST BERLIN CONFIRMS
RUMORS THAT ABRASIMOV PLANS TO RECALL EXPERIENCED
MEMBERS OF HIS FORMER STAFF FROM THE QUADRIpartite
NEGOTIATIONS PERIOD. KHOTULEV'S APPOINTMENT IS PARTICULARLY
SIGNIFICANT IN THIS RESPECT, FOR HE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF
THE TOP SOVIET EXPERTS ON BERLIN AND, AS COUNSELOR FOR
WEST BERLIN AFFAIRS, WAS A PRINCIPAL CONTACT FOR THE
ALLIES DURING THE QUADRIpartite NEGOTIATIONS. AN ADEPT,
CULTURED AND RESPECTED SOVIET DIPLOMAT, KHOTULEV WAS
CONSIDERED LESS HARDLINE ON BERLIN THAN HIS SUCCESSOR
(AND RODIN'S PREDECESSOR) VICTOR BELETSKY IN THE IMMEDIATE
POST-QA PERIOD. COOPER

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